

service has been arranged in such a way that it can be linked up with the private rooms to suit patients, who, subject to medical approval, desire to keep in touch with their ordinary affairs. The block is built on a steel-work construction, and it is fire-proof throughout.

It is not intended that this new block should compete with private nursing homes. A definite limit will be put on the type of patients admitted, and they will be charged only the actual cost of maintenance, but the patients will be responsible for the payment of the attending surgeons and physicians. The block is designed to meet the needs of those middle-class people who, ordinarily, would not be able to enter private nursing homes on account of the cost, but who at the same time are beyond the scope of the ordinary wards of the voluntary hospital, which caters for the very poor.

This relatively small beginning in a paying-block should fill a long-felt want in Belfast and its surrounding district, and it is hoped that ere long it will be extended to such dimensions as to be in keeping with the population of the area which it serves.

B.M.A.—NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH NORTH-EAST ULSTER DIVISION

THE second annual social meeting of the Division was held in The Cafe, Coleraine, on Monday, 3rd January. The large number of guests were welcomed by the chairman and Mrs. Bateman.

After tea, Dr. Bateman introduced Dr. R. H. Hunter, Belfast, who gave a talk on tales from The Zoo. The speaker gave a most interesting and racy account of his varied experiences with the animals in the Zoological Gardens in London and Belfast. He delighted the company with stories of the almost uncanny intelligence displayed by some of the animals. He described, for example, how an elephant in Belfast Zoo recognised immediately, a trainer whom the elephant had not seen since leaving a circus a few years previously. He also told how an elephant had emptied its drinking water over two young men who were teasing it. Dr. Hunter gave interesting details regarding the building of enclosures for the animals, as these are built with an exact knowledge of how high the different animals are able to jump. The audience were much impressed and amused by Dr. Hunter's statement that it is a comparatively simple matter to enter a lion's cage, because a human being can always think a few seconds ahead of a lion.

The talk was illustrated by a large number of excellent lantern slides from Dr. Hunter's collection.

A vote of thanks to the speaker for his most instructive and delightful talk was passed with enthusiasm, on the proposal of Dr. J. M. Hunter, seconded by Dr. Ross Thomson.

This, the second social meeting of the Division, was a great success, and it is certain that a meeting of this kind will now be an annual event.

A MEETING of the Division was held in The Cafe, Coleraine, on Monday, 7th February. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed. Two resolutions from the Tyrone Division regarding the Dispensary System and the Mental Treatment Act were adopted. A number of short papers were then read by members of the Division.

Dr. Ekin described a case of leukæmia, and drew attention to difficulties in diagnosis.

Dr. McGlade discussed the use of Optochin in pneumonia. He described some cases in which this drug had apparently been very successful. He mentioned that he had never seen any ill-effect on the eyes, as a result of treatment.

Dr. Allison gave an account of a patient who had had pleurisy, pneumonia, hæmoptysis, and hæmaturia. The patient on several occasions was very critically ill, but eventually recovered. In spite of many investigations, the cause of the illness was not discovered.

Dr. Boyd gave an account of his experience with Prolutan. One patient had had six miscarriages, for which no cause could be discovered. During the last pregnancy, Prolutan was given, and the patient has now reached the eighth month of the present pregnancy. Another patient who had had four pregnancies which terminated for no apparent reason at four to five months, is now receiving Prolutan and has reached five and a half months.

Dr. McClelland's case was that of a boy who received a ragged cut on the forehead, which became septic, but healed up normally. Later on the patient developed irregular pyrexia, which continued for many weeks, with symptoms pointing to abdominal adenitis. The opinion was that latent tubercular glands in the abdomen had been activated by the septic infection in the forehead. The patient eventually recovered.

Finally, Dr. Adams gave his views on old age. He described several cases in Garvagh district, of people who had reached a ripe old age and enjoyed excellent health in spite of the fact that they disregarded the rules of hygiene and dietetics. Many of them had many septic teeth, and the speaker maintained that by producing their own antitoxins, these people had reached old age without any attention from physicians, surgeons, or dentists. Dr. Adams maintained that the secret of healthy old-age was contentment and that this far outweighed other factors. He attributed the contentment of elderly people in the country as partly due to the Old Age Pension scheme.

All the papers were followed with interest, and stimulated discussion. The best thanks of the meeting were expressed to all who had taken part.

The hope was expressed that more meetings of this kind would be held in the future.

J. M. HUNTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

EGLINTON TERRACE, PORTRUSH.